



CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2004 AGENDA

☒ General Waiver

SUBJECT

Request by **Hesperia Unified School District** for a renewal waiver of *Education Code* (EC) Section 37202, the equity length of time requirement, to allow a full day kindergarten program at one of the district's twelve elementary schools, **Mesa Academy School**.

Waiver Number: 14-7-2004

☒ Action

☐ Consent

RECOMMENDATION

☐ Approval ☒ Approval with conditions ☐ Denial

That EC Section 33051(c) will apply as long as the conditions of the waiver request remain the same.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The State Board of Education (SBE) has approved similar waivers in the past.

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

The Hesperia Unified School District requests a renewal for a waiver of EC Section 37202, the equity length of time requirement in order to operate an extended day kindergarten at one of their twelve elementary schools, Mesa Academy School. The district would like to add more classes of extended day kindergartens at the other district schools but Mesa is currently the only school with the available space.

As a condition of the original waiver, the district has submitted an evaluation of the pilot program. The evaluation data represents 72% of the kindergarten pupils that attended twenty or more days of the extended day pilot. These students were evaluated on language arts and mathematics using pre and post tests. The results are encouraging. For example, during the pre test, only 56% of the pupils recognized all 26 lower case letters compared to 91% of the pupils by the end of the year. Fifty-two percent of the kindergartners were reading at grade level by the end of the year compared to the one student able to do so at the beginning of the year. Mathematics showed a similar result.

For example, only 22% of the pupils could count to 30 at the beginning of the year and 61% were able to do so at the end of the year. None of the pupils were recommended for retention. The survey of parents, teachers and students indicated support for the program with the expectation that the program would continue. Clearly, this pilot program has helped to increase the academic achievement levels of these pupils.

Therefore, the department recommends approval with the condition that EC section 33051(c) will apply as long as the conditions of the waiver remain the same.

Authority for Waiver: *Education Code* (EC) Section 33050

Period of request: July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005

Local board approval date(s): July 12, 2004

Public hearing held on date(s): July 12, 2004

Bargaining unit(s) consulted on date(s): For original waiver, the bargaining unit was consulted on October 31, 2003 (non-controversial waiver).

Name of bargaining unit/representative(s) consulted: Gordon Williamson, Hesperia Education Association, Vice President

Position of bargaining unit(s) (choose only one):

☐ Neutral ☒ Support ☐ Oppose

Comments (if appropriate):

Public hearing advertised by (choose one or more):

☐ posting in a newspaper ☐ posting at each school ☒ other (specify) at various school sites and district office

Advisory committee(s) consulted: School site councils

Objections raised (choose one): ☒ None ☐ Objections are as follows:

Date(s) consulted: originally consulted on October 7, 2003

FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)

The district will absorb all costs incurred.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Action Item: Some documentation is available for web viewing. Waiver forms and other hard copy documents are available for viewing at the Waiver Office or State Board Office.